

## **School Readiness Program-Cycle 2 Request for Funding**

Dear Executive Directors:

We are happy to forward a copy of the School Readiness (SR) Program Request for Funding (RFF). The RFF was designed with the benefit of input from County Commission and SR Program staff who attended the five Regional Meetings on the SR Reapplication Process (held September to November 2005), as well as from the Evaluation Workgroup. Thank you again for your attendance at the regional meetings, as well as for your thoughtful development of comments and recommendations for inclusion in the RFF. Your ideas have been invaluable and will help ensure that the SR Program is effective and responsive to the needs of California's young children and families.

In reviewing the RFF, you will find that core aspects of the SR Program remain intact, particularly the required focus on the First 5 Principles on Equity and a multi-faceted approach to school readiness (early care and education, health, etc.). You will also find a new emphasis on other aspects of the SR Program that will assist in refining the administration, implementation, and effective evaluation of local SR programming and activities; some of these include:

1. Programs will apply for Cycle 2 funding the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year the program runs out of Cycle 1 funding,
2. Programs will apply for funding and operate based on the State Fiscal Year (July 1 – June 30),
3. County Coordination Funds (previously referred to as Implementation Funds) will continue to be available and will be accounted for through a separate set of budget and reporting documents,
4. Applying programs will reflect a renewed focus on the selection and implementation of evidence-based practices, with annual reporting on child/family outcomes, and
5. All funded SR programs (regardless of application date) will transition to the newly adopted Statewide Research and Evaluation Framework effective July 1, 2006. This transition includes reporting based on the four evaluation Result Areas as described in the table below:

<b>5 Essential and Coordinated SR Elements</b>	<b>Evaluation Framework/Annual Report</b>
1. Early Care and Education	1. Result Area: Improved Child Development
2. Parenting/Family Support Services	2. Result Area: Improved Family Functioning
3. Health and Social Services	3. Result Area: Improved Health

4. School's Readiness for Children	4. Result Area: Improved Systems of Care (Every SR Program must at least report on the outcome of School's Readiness for Children here, in addition to other applicable outcomes.)
5. Infrastructure, Administration, and Evaluation	In Cycle 2-activities previously described and reported in this element should be included within Improved Systems of Care.

Frequently asked questions from County Commissions and corresponding responses will be posted on our website, [www.ccfca.gov](http://www.ccfca.gov), beginning February 13 (e-mail RFF questions to Monet Parham-Lee at [mparham-lee@ccfc.ca.gov](mailto:mparham-lee@ccfc.ca.gov) ). Thank you in advance for all of your hard work in developing responses to the SR Program RFF over the next three years. I look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of California's youngest children and their families.

Sincerely,

Kris Perry  
Executive Director

cc: County School Readiness Coordinators

Enclosure: SR Program RFF Part 1 and Part 2  
Excel Version of Forms 4-6